



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Georgia

Post Office Box 8999

100 Bull Street

Savannah, GA 31412

Savannah, GA 31401

(912) 652-4422 / FAX (912) 652-4471

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Contact: Dan Drake
(912) 201-2669

**Richmond County Sheriff's Department
and South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Receives Asset
Forfeiture Fund Sharing Checks
from the Bobby Snell Investigation**

Augusta: Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today, during an Equitable Sharing Ceremony at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Augusta, that the Drug Enforcement Administration, Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, participated in the 16 month investigation of a large scale cocaine distribution ring in the Augusta, Georgia, area which led to the arrest and conviction of Robert Snell. From approximately 1996 to the time of his arrest on June 11, 2001, Snell supplied large quantities of controlled substances, including cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and ecstasy in the Augusta area. Snell had not been legitimately employed for years and had no other source of income other than the sale of illicit narcotics.

Snell was indicted on June 8, 2001 for multiple drug violations and for continuing criminal enterprise. The indictment included a forfeiture count for Snell's residence that was in the final phases of construction when it was seized, and also a money judgment in the amount of \$2,493,000.00. On August 6, 2001, Snell pled guilty to a continuing criminal

enterprise count and agreed to the terms of the forfeiture count. On October 18, 2001, Snell was sentenced to a prison term of 324 months.

Snell's newly built house located at 4101 Nicoles Way, Grovetown, Georgia was forfeited to the United States on the basis that it was constructed using proceeds from drug transactions and other illegal activities. The U.S. Marshals Service sold the property on March 11, 2002.

The Richmond County Sheriff's Department's share of the forfeited proceeds is \$236,575.84. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's share of the forfeited property is \$22,629.12. The pre-approved permissible fund usages are: activities calculated to enhance future investigations, law enforcement training, law enforcement equipment and operations, detention facilities, law enforcement facilities and equipment, drug education and awareness programs.

Assistant United States Attorneys J. Michael Faulkner and James L. Coursey, Jr. represented the United States in the case.

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